

GY301 Political Geography of Development and the South

Week 21

Representing Development

This class will explore contemporary questions of representation and development intervention. Jarosz's article deftly historicizes and contextualizes dominant ways of seeing and doing development in Africa, while Richey and Ponte draw particular attention to the ways in which the development industry attempts to enrol new publics through "causumerism" and celebrity endorsements.

Class Readings

- Jarosz, L. 1992. Constructing the dark continent: metaphor as geographic representation of Africa, *Geografiska Annaler*, 74 B (2):105-115.
- Richey, L. A. and S. Ponte 2008. Better (Red)TM than dead? Celebrities, consumption and international aid, *Third World Quarterly*, 29, 4, 711-729.

By the end of this class you should be able to:

- Describe the postcolonial critique of representation in development in the class readings
- Summarise and evaluate the arguments in constructing an outline exam answer
- Apply these arguments to alternative case studies



A reflective space...

How is RED both similar and different to previous interventions?

What are the images / metaphors in RED for Richey and Ponte?

What 3 situations does Jarosz present? How are they represented? What stories are told about them?

What development effects do these representations have?

Does this matter? Why?

How does commodity fetishism work? What are the commodities in Richey & Ponte, Jarosz, Ferguson?

What are the relationships between symptoms and causes here?

How are geographies present and absent in these accounts, and why?

What other examples can we apply this analysis to?



A reflective space...

2009

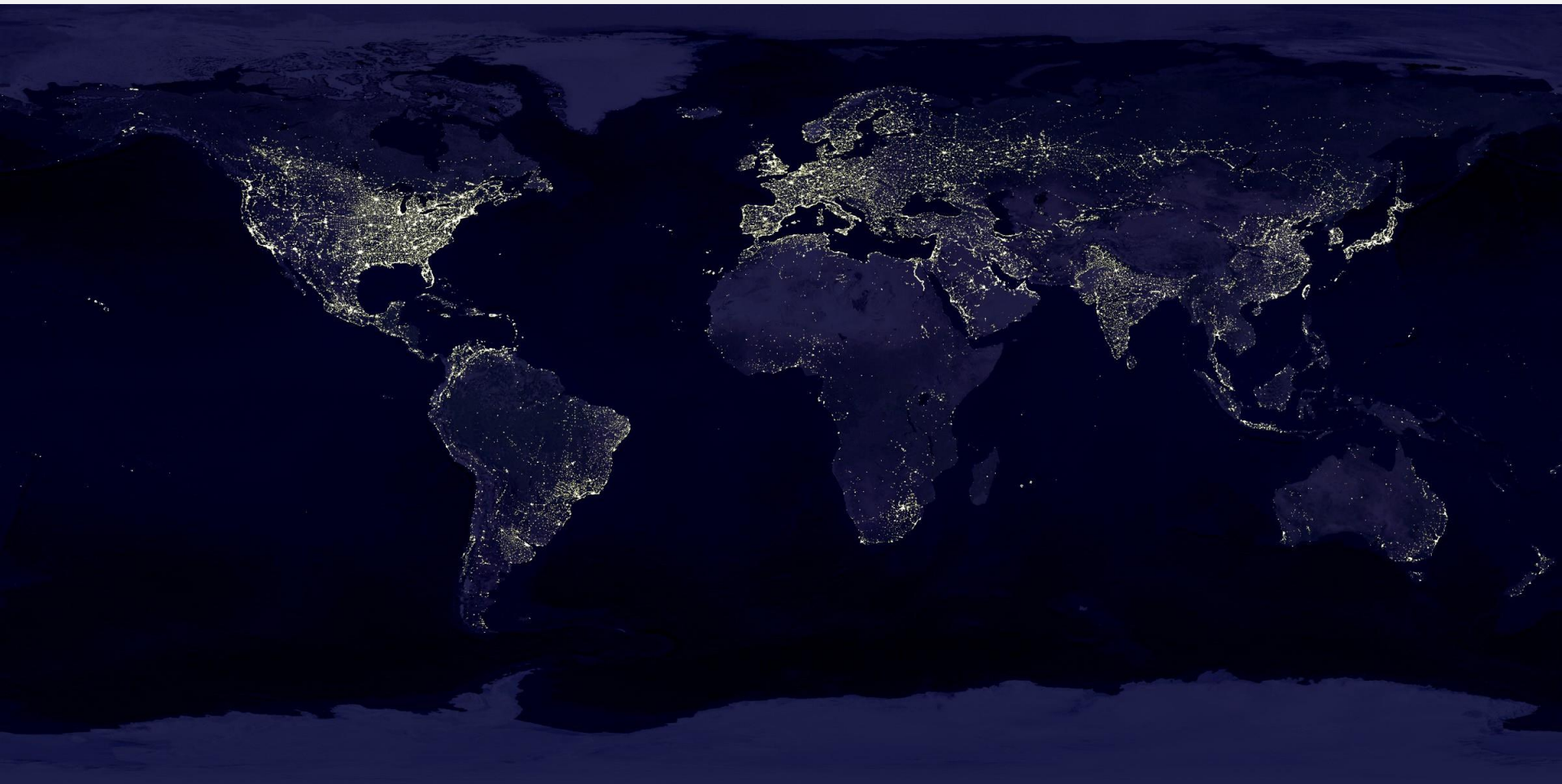
7. 'Western representations of 'underdeveloped' people and places tell us more about those doing the representing than those who are represented.' Discuss with reference to examples.

2010

9. To what extent is Africa still the 'dark continent' of the European geographical imagination. Discuss with reference to examples.

2011

9. Drawing on the writing of James Ferguson (Richey & Ponte, Jarosz...) show how the object of development is constructed and suggest why this matters.



Next Week: Revision Session

Email me topics you would like to focus on